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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of
HIBST et al.

Serial No. 10/617,859

Filed: July 14, 2003

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) Art Unit: 1621
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) Examiner: Witherspoon
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)

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RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

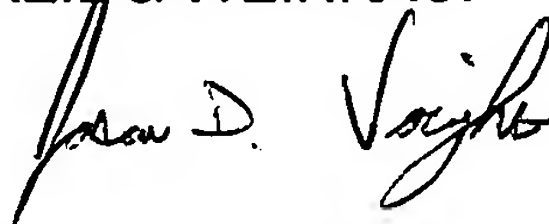
In response to the Election/Restriction Requirement of June 15, 2004, applicants elect Group I, claims 1-8, with traverse. As the examiner notes, Group I, claims 1-8, and Group II, claims 9-11, are related as product and process of use. Applicants urge that the process of Group II would necessarily be practiced with the product of Group I in view of the fact that the claims of Group II are dependent on the claims of Group I. In any event, claim 9 links a process to an apparatus for practicing the process. As such, the claims of Group II should be rejoined and examined upon a determination of allowability of the claims of Group I over the prior art. MPEP 809.04.

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Respectfully submitted,
KEIL & WEINKAUF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason D. Voight", written over the printed name.

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